

NORTH ASTON

NEWS

August 2021

#370



NORTH ASTON NEWS

AUGUST 2021, No:370

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Out of Hours Doctor: 111 or 08453 458 995

Notes from the Chair

Hello all! The summer is finally here! Well, the British summer should I say, and in true fashion that includes a nice variety of sunshine, showers and even thunder.

I have spoken to a few residents regarding the potential bus service and it would seem that there is a desire for one. To clarify, this would be a paid service (bus passes are accepted) and anyone can use it. You wouldn't need to book, just turn up at the Fountain and you would be collected. I'm discussing the finer details with the company and hope to be able to confirm a new timetable and start date soon. If you want to know more information please do contact me.

As most of you know, the Village Party will be taking place on September 4th, kindly organised by Franca and her team. If you would like to come please contact her for tickets, as I do believe she will need to know numbers soonish. It is promising to be quite the event ... certainly a tonic for the year we have all just had.

One final thing. There will be a Village Meeting on Monday 9th August on The Green. All are welcome and I look forward to seeing you there.

You can telephone Lucinda on 340588 or email: chair@north-aston.co.uk

Lucinda

Saturday 4th September 2021



THE VILLAGE PARTY

The Orchard Barn from 6:30 pm

There will be an evening Buffet Supper in the Orchard Barn on 4th September to say thank you to everyone in the Village for seeing the community through 18 months of the pandemic. There will be a welcome drink, followed by a generous supper, musical entertainment, dancing and games. The evening will be free to permanent residents, including the under 16s, but spaces must be reserved, and are booking up fast. If you'd like to attend, you must confirm your reservation before August 14th.

Those attending will be asked to bring their own refreshments, and a dessert to share would be appreciated. All other food, crockery, glasses and cutlery will be provided.

You can email your details to info@north-aston.co.uk or telephone Franca or Marcus on 347356. All dietary requirements can be catered for - please advise at the time of booking. This event remains conditional upon the prevailing Covid-19 requirements and restrictions applicable on the day.

Front Cover: Last month's front cover featured an idyllic photo by Sarah Bourke-Borrowes, taken from the Cherwell valley. It was captioned as including the church of St Mary's, visible through the trees. As Jane Durnin correctly observed, the church had spires above the crenellations, marking it as Somerton church, not North Aston. Our apologies.

Planning

Planning Applications

Notice of various Planning Applications have been received from CDC. Visit <https://planningregister.cherwell.gov.uk/> and keyword search "North Aston" for more information.

Bradenstoke Barn & Coach House, St Mary's Walk, OX25 6AA. The application to make alterations and repairs to both properties has now moved into the consultation stage. A decision is expected in early August. Reference Nos: 21 / 02003 / LB and 21 / 02002 / F. Also discharge notices 21 / 02017 / DISC and 21 / 02018 / DISC

North Aston Hall St Mary's Walk North Aston OX25 6AA. A decision is expected imminently on the application to address the size and canopies of four trees adjacent to the Hall, previously subject to TPO 02/1987. Reference No: 21 / 01996 / TPO

Gate Cottage Somerton Road North Aston OX25 6HX. The application to demolish the existing kitchen extension at the rear and erect a new single-storey extension and outbuilding remains at the consultation stage. A July decision has been delayed. Ref Nos: 21 / 01861 / LB and 21 / 0 1860 / F

18 The Green North Aston OX25 6HX. A decision on the application to clear a fallen limb and reduce height of a Willow remains under consultation. Reference No: 21 / 01206 / TCA

North Aston Hall St Mary's Walk North Aston OX25 6AA. A decision regarding plans to carry out a partial strip-out of some floors in The Hall is overdue. Reference No: 21 / 01012 / LB

No updates yet on progress regarding possible traffic calming measures through the village. More soon ...

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About SJB Hearing Company Ltd

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www.sjbhearingcompany.co.uk ~ tel: 01869 254 019

email: booking@sjbhearingcompany.co.uk

Ashcroft Therapy Centre, Hudson Street, Deddington, OX15 0SW

Heyford Park Pantry

North Aston has given so generously to the Heyford Park Pantry, which is flourishing. Annie visited a couple of weekends ago and was really impressed with the organisation behind it and how much activity there is. Do remember the community larder scheme is now up and running and for a very small weekly subscription, you can help towards alleviating the problem of food waste. The scheme is open to anyone within a 15 minute drive of the Community Centre on Heyford Park and every Friday (11- 12.30) and Saturday (12- 2pm) members can choose from a wide range of surplus food items. Do go and have a look or check out the Pantry page on Facebook; @HeyfordParkPantry.

This month's collection will take place over the weekend of 6th- 8th August. The pink collection box will be placed outside Annie's front door; Middle Cottage, St Mary's Walk. It would be amazing if you could find a way of donating toiletries and cleaning/washing items in particular. Pet food is also welcome as it can be very hard for people to continue feeding their pets during challenging times, and yet they can be an even more important part of family life at these times. So dig deep North Aston - and thank you.

Annie Savage – secretary@north-aston.co.uk

The Village Defibrillator

The defibrillator is located in the porch at 4 Somerton Road, opposite the post box. CPR & Defibrillator training sessions are arranged from time to time. For more information or to book a session, please contact Mark: 347806



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North Aston Nature Notes

With Stephen Rees

The year is rolling on at a pace! Before you can blink an eye the nights will start to draw in, and we haven't even got any wood in yet for our heating. Normally it would all be in, split and drying by now.

There are several reasons for this. Firstly, we haven't been out and about much just lately, but have been spending a good bit of time in our garden instead. That's suggested a few interesting ideas that I thought might make an article, including one really interesting thing that I will save to last ... so bear with it if it gets a bit boring.

Wendy does all of our garden. It's lovely to walk around even though it's not huge. She grows veg and cut flowers in the same bed – nothing regimented, no straight lines, just how it takes her fancy and imagination.

What I really like though is the amount of thought she gives to nature. Wendy never cuts the grass short, or even very often, and grass an inch or so longer is wonderful for insects. Consequently, the birds love it, and we often see Flycatchers, Tits and various other insect-feeding birds in our garden.

Around the edges we leave the nettles to grow wild. We use them to make nettle beer and the butterflies use them to lay their eggs and breed there young. A couple of weeks ago our nettles were covered in the furry black caterpillars of the Peacock butterfly species. They would eat all of one nettle, covering it in silk, and then move on to the next. Then, one day, every single one had disappeared, burrowing down into the ground below to pupate.

Wendy leaves corners rough, with little piles of cuttings, twigs and stuff that make perfect Hedgehog homes. We've found lots of Hedgehog poo on our paths, which is actually a great sign, as these lovable little creatures are in such decline.

We let our mint run wild all along one path. It can look very scruffy but it smells lovely when I brush against it. It is covered in a little green shiny beetles that are amazing to look at when you get close. It's called the Mint Leaf Beetle and lives all across southern England, but according to Google it's a pest. I'm happy to share our mint with it, as they're so beautiful and affects nothing other than mint, so does no harm to us down here.

We have lots of Catnip growing in the garden. Our cat sits and chews the leaves, and looks as high as a kite afterwards! The bumblebees go mad for it too, when it's in flower, making such a noise and filling the garden with pollinators.

Water is another important feature. Bird baths are good for birds and bees alike, and we have a few of those, as well as

some old sinks full of water and plants. They also encourage the toads and dragonflies.

So, to the last thing that I said I was going to tell you about this month ...



We were sat having a gin and tonic outside. The sun was well over the yard arm, and the birds, even my lovely rooks (which are always the last to do so) had all gone to bed, when I noticed a cock Blackbird sat on the top of our Apple tree. He was right on the very top. That's odd, thinks I. It's ten o'clock and all the birds have gone to bed, so what's he doing? Suddenly he flew out, caught a big moth in his beak, and flew back to the Apple tree to eat it. He did this several times, sometimes having to hover a bit to catch the moth. This wily blackbird had obviously learnt that, if he stays up a bit longer, he can enjoy a feast. Honestly, you couldn't make it up.

That's how remarkable nature is. All you need to do is slow down a bit and have a good look at what's going on around you. So, let your grass grow a bit longer, leave some scruffy bits in the corners, and make sure there's lots of water. I'm not trying to save the world, it's just nice to see colourful beetles, bats and bees about.
Steve and Wendy

NORTH ASTON ORGANICS

Vegetable Stall

Open Mon-Sat from 9.00am
In the car park behind the Old Bakery

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- Supporting the local economy



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Email: northastonorganics@gmail.com
Tel: (01869) 347702
visit the website at:
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Broadband



The long-awaited project to bring **Fibre to the Premises** into North Aston all went mysteriously quiet last year. From the end of 2019 through to the onset of the pandemic, we seemed to be making good progress. There were a few hiccups along the way, but at least we were moving forwards. By the end of May 2020 we appeared to have arrived at a definitive list of premises that Openreach could work with ... and then nothing ... for six months. In October last year there was a brief resumption in email exchanges, but it didn't last.

Another five months passed, and despite repeated attempts to find out what was going on, feedback was sparse or non-existent. Eventually, at the end of July, success of sorts. Sadly, the old adage of "two steps forwards, one back" was never more apt. It now transpires that half the work we completed 18 months previously has been rendered obsolete. The Rural Gigabit Scheme that we were relying upon to finance the project has since been replaced by a revised scheme, and we all need to renew our commitment to the project.

Frustratingly, it will be necessary for everyone who previously signed up to the scheme to do so again. That's the disappointing news. The good news is that anyone who wasn't resident in the village, or perhaps has embraced 21st technology more enthusiastically in the last couple of years, can now join the project. So ...

What do we do next?

First, everyone with Internet access needs to visit the Openreach website and "pledge" their interest in the scheme. Believe me, it's so easy, and so quick. It takes five minutes, so do it now. Head to this web page:

www.openreach.co.uk/iwantultrafast

On arriving at the page, read through the blurb (if you wish) and then click the link at the bottom of the page that reads "**Check if you're eligible and pledge your voucher**". On the next page, scroll down, and click the "**I'm not a robot**" button. Then enter your postcode in the panel below and submit the button.

You'll then arrive at the page for our Ultrafast Community Project. Click the button that reads "**Pledge for the Somerton Road Ultrafast Community Project**".

On the next page, enter your *Name* and *Address* details. In the section which states "*Is this address a Home, Business or a Sole Trader?*" be sure to check the correct button. If your home is just that, and no business operates from your address, click the "**Home**" button. However, if anyone works from that address, as a business, be sure to check one of the other two buttons. If yours is a fully-fledged business, with a registered number, click the **Business** button. If anyone in the house is self employed or working from home, click the **Sole Trader** button. This will reveal additional entry boxes, which you'll need to complete.

This is vitally important. The value of vouchers applied to a Business or Sole Trader address is higher than that of a residential Home, and we need as many of these as possible.

Be sure to enter your email address correctly! No spaces in telephone numbers either.

Because North Aston is a rural community, addresses here are eligible for top-up funding. Please ensure you **tick the box** (below the email entry panel) confirming that you'd like this additional funding to be applied to your voucher.

Those who completed the village Broadband Questionnaire will recall that part of the "pledge" was to commit to subscribing to an ultrafast broadband package once the scheme was implemented. Many households are already using an ultrafast package through the existing cabling, so this commitment will have no cost impact for them at all. Those still on dial-up (anyone??) or on a basic broadband contract (below about 5 Mb/s) will need to commit to upgrading that account to one of the faster packages. By the time the scheme is complete, the cost of these high-speed packages is likely to be little more than the current cost of a standard package, but if you're unsure of what this may mean to you, ask. Just send an email to info@north-aston.co.uk and the implications can be explained.

If you're okay with all that, tick the two boxes. If you want to be kept informed about the progress of the scheme, click the next box as well, and then check one of the buttons to say how you heard about the scheme. You can click "Other" and enter "Parish Magazine".

And that's it! Please, if it's the only thing you do after reading this month's *News*, do this.

All in the name of Progress

We've run several articles here in the *News*, explaining about the FTTP project, and why it's so important to the future of our community. Please check out those past editions if you've forgotten, but rest assured, implementing FTTP is essential. It will not only make a huge difference to how new technology works in our homes, but it will also enhance the value of each and every property. Getting there is a complicated process, so our thanks to Jack Paviour of OCC for offering some pointers on what's involved:

1. We have to submit a preliminary list of addresses for the scheme to Openreach. **Done!**
2. Openreach examines the scheme, considers its viability, comes back with an initial estimate of probable cost. We canvas residents to gauge interest, through questionnaires and emails. **Done!**
3. Those residents who are interested in joining the scheme pledge to submit their voucher to the scheme via the dedicated Pledge website. This also implies their commitment to take up the high-speed service once the FTTP becomes available. **This is where we're at now ...**
4. Once Openreach believes the number of pledges meets the target cost, and the scheme is truly viable, they submit a Pre-Registered Package (PRP) to the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) for approval.
5. The Package is supplied as a list of addresses which DCMS can review. A project number will be assigned. This allows the project to be tracked and analysed by DCMS. The Department needs to ensure that the addresses nominated are genuine and viable. This includes examining the voucher allocation, including checks to ensure only one voucher has been applied for per premises or per business.

6. When DCMS is happy that the list is correct and viable, a relevant value to each voucher will be applied.

7. Emails will be sent by DCMS to all residents to verify the address and request confirmation that they still wish to pledge their voucher to this scheme. Responses must be made within 28-days. If too many fail to validate in time this will lead to the scheme failing. However, providing everyone verifies and pledges their vouchers in time, it should then be go ahead.

8. Openreach will be informed that the PRP has been approved and the scheme will be handed over to the Openreach Delivery Team for implementation.

9. Openreach has 12 months from that date to deliver the project. Residents will then be required to take up their commitment to the service once the connection has gone live.

If you have any questions, please ask, by emailing: info@north-aston.co.uk



Eight callouts last month: four standbys, two fires (both out on arrival) and two RTCs – one requiring a casualty extraction. So yes, we are still a little quiet, as is the service county-wide. However, the station is still busy hosting both development training for the newer members of the crew, and drill night training for all of Deddington's fire fighters. This has been concentrating on aspects of water rescue, ladder pitching, water relays and open water pumping – with several off station exercises taking place.



To keep us quiet, please make sure that your kitchen is a safe place to be, and all your electrical appliances are safe to use and your plugs are not overloaded. And remember, if you have the odd pint or 3 in the evening, you may still be over the limit the morning after. On the lighter side, we had our first official Station photo in two years – the sun shone as brightly as our boots!

James Greenwood FFD – james@cyclogicalshop.co.uk



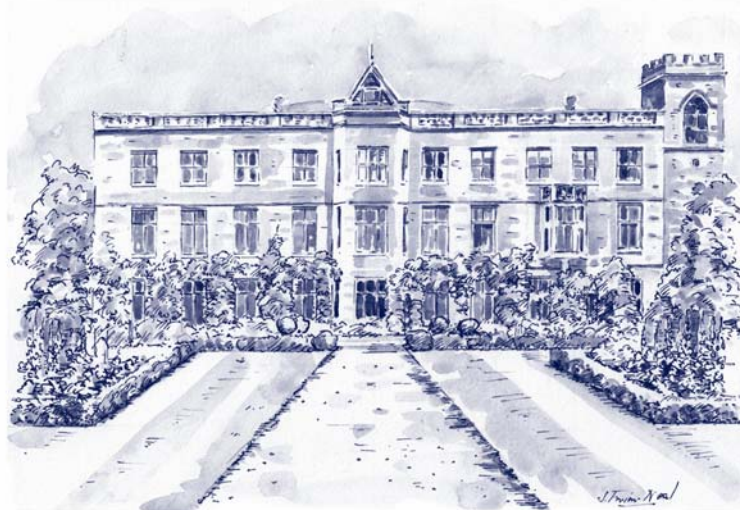
The winners of last month's draw were:

1st Prize (£25): Gwen Short (#52)

2nd Prize (£5): George Hack (#140)

Congratulations to this month's winners! For more info on the Club, call Bev on 347434 or email info@north-aston.co.uk.

You've got to be in it to win it!



MARIO AND MARIE

AT HOME

SATURDAY 14TH AUGUST 2021

RSVP BY 6TH AUGUST
MVP@MARIEVONPAPEN.COM
+44 7585 136 697
NORTH ASTON HALL

SUMMER BBQ LUNCH
1.00 - 6.00PM
DRESS: SUMMER COOL



And so the holidays settle in ...

Are you staying home or trying to get away? This year feels complicated doesn't it!

I find my mind wandering back to the summer after I left primary school. I guess it comes from living next door to the sound of a school, and the sudden silence when term ends! Let's not get into too much detail about the exact year in question - but the weather was glorious, and I spent a very happy few weeks enjoying the innocent euphoria of leaving one school and anticipating the next.

I'd managed to pass the exams into the local grammar school, as had two of my closest friends. We prepared together for whatever was coming at us next - walking our dogs on the moors, going to the fleapit cinema in town, waiting for endless days to merge into more endless days, meeting other friends on the hoof, swimming in ponds and running down lanes, laughing, talking, having no idea. They were truly 'holy days'.

Sometimes we lose the connection between a vacation and a holiday - between a rest and something that bit more precious, a gift. The word 'holiday' comes from a time when the only rest most people received was because of a religious celebration. A 'holy day' meant more than respite from labour. For us, we're usually more focussed on a destination or family or friends or achieving something new. But the sense of wonder and gift and value that comes from seeing even an ordinary thing as 'holy' can be...transformative. Laughter between friends. Silence before sleep. Time to enjoy a good book. Music never heard before.

It's nice to get on a plane to enjoy these things; it's not essential.

And so the holy days of this summer settle in when we look with the eyes of our hearts and find that God loves even you and me and grants us all kinds of kindness. Holy days don't happen only when school is out. They can happen any time. But perhaps at this time of year many of us get a chance to take a moment, breathe, see freshly the wonders around us - and be thankful again.

I'm thankful for family and home and for the memory of loved ones gone before. I'm thankful for small kindnesses I receive which transform so many days, and for the chance to offer such kindnesses to others. I'm thankful for the terrific England football team, for their excellence on and off the pitch and for the example of manager and players in showing that every single person matters equally. I'm thankful for the chance to go to the theatre and to concerts again.

I'm thankful when I hear music that lifts my spirits and reminds me that - no matter how grey the weather is - this day is filled with beauty. There are always gifts around us, things to be thankful for, moments of wonder to make each day a holy day. Sometimes we struggle to see them and yet Jesus promises us that the 'kingdom of God' (that place where such gifts are always for the taking) is always 'at hand': just touching distance away. Reach out. It's that close.

Our services continue Sunday by Sunday through the summer - come and join us if you can, as we gather to worship and express our thankfulness, and to pray that more and more of our days might be 'holy'. We're especially delighted that

the new Bishop of Dorchester is joining us one Sunday in August. We're also especially looking forward to the whole season of thankfulness that is Harvest, which will come at the very beginning of October.



Revd Marcus Green

Church Services in August 2021

N. ASTON	S. ASTON	TACKLEY
Sunday 1st August		
9:30 am <i>Holy Communion</i> Book of Common Prayer Revd Marcus Green	11:00 am <i>Holy Communion</i> Book of Common Prayer Revd Marcus Green	5:30 pm Evensong Revd Marcus Green
Sunday 8th August		
No Service	No Service	10:30 am United Benefice <i>Holy Communion</i> Revd Clare Hayns
Sunday 15th August		
9:30 am Morning Prayer Richard Bailey	11:00 am Morning Prayer Richard Bailey	5:30 pm Evensong Canon Robin Gibbons
Sunday 22nd August		
No Service	10:30 am United Benefice <i>Holy Communion</i> Rt Revd Gavin Collins Bishop of Dorchester	No Service
Sunday 29th August		
9:30 am Morning Prayer Richard Bailey	11:00 am Morning Prayer Richard Bailey	9.30am Family Communion Revd Marcus Green
Sunday 5th September		
9:30 am <i>Holy Communion</i> Book of Common Prayer Revd Marcus Green	11:00 am <i>Holy Communion</i> Book of Common Prayer Revd Marcus Green	5:30 pm Evensong Revd Marcus Green & Canon Robin Gibbons

Any comments about the Church Matters page are very welcome, and you can always contact the Rector Marcus Green by calling 340903 or emailing: steeplerector@hotmail.co.uk. More news is always available on the website at www.sntchurch.com

You can also contact: Clive Busby (casb@north-aston.com, 340470) or Annabel Bevan (annabelbevan@hotmail.com, 345153) or any other member of the PCC, who include Richard Bailey, Beryl Greenwood, Vicky Taylor, Ginny Stay, Ted Short, Jeremy Taylor and Norman West.

Announcements

Deddington Farmers' Market

This month the Farmer's Market will be on Saturday 28th August. Customers are still requested to wear masks and to park at the school. Visit the website: www.deddingtonfarmersmarket.co.uk

Wednesday Fish & Chips: 5:50 pm to 6:20 pm

Van 99 brings Fish & Chips to The Green ever Wednesday at ten-to-six. You can pre-order by calling 07484 360719, emailing van99orders@gmail.com or visiting bit.ly/findvan99

Village Meeting

Monday 9th August, The Green, 6:00 pm

There will be an informal Village Meeting on the Green on 9th August at 6pm. The last one was really enjoyable as it was the first time we had met face to face for such a long time. There will no formal agenda but we'll be discussing the Village Party, as well as any other items that need reviewing. Bring a chair and maybe a glass of something cheerful. If you have any specific topics you'd like to raise, please let Lucinda or Annie know as soon as possible, or raise them under *Any Other Business*.

RIDE+STRIDE

Saturday 11th September 2019

This year's annual walk, cycle or horse ride between local churches to raise funds for Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust is coming up soon. Last year Stephen Randall and the Stay Family raised £290, with £145 going to St Mary's. Could you help them do even better in 2021? Join them, or sponsor them! More information & entry forms from www.ohct.org.uk/ride-and-stride or ask Clive on 338434.

North Aston Gardening Club

The deadline for submitting Entry Forms for this year's Flower & Produce Show (Saturday 4th September) is 29th August.

There are no entry fees this year and 'professional' judges will be deciding the prizes. Because of Covid concerns, there will be no food-related categories, although the Spud-in-the-Tub competition is sure to remain a highlight! The theme for the photography competition is *North Aston through the Pandemic*, and images conveying the story of the village during the previous 18 months will be welcome.

The Flower & Produce Show will be a key element in the community's expression of thanks for the way residents have worked together to mitigate the impact of the pandemic. There will be tea and cakes (donations welcome!) as well as games and entertainment for the children. In the evening there will be a party, open to all residents, staged in the Orchard Barn.

Any questions regarding the Flower & Produce Show should be directed to Tuck on 347727 or tuck56@hotmail.com

August Birthdays

Trudy Busby
Thea Bourke-Borrowes
Eileen Gilmore
Louis Le Clercq
Jane McArdle
Freya Stay
Kate Symons



Many Happy Returns to all the North Aston residents who celebrate birthdays this month. If you're not listed, or know someone who should be, please let us know.

SUSTAINABLE NORTH ASTON



Recycling

The new bins in the bus shelter are proving to be a helpful way of collecting blister packs and coffee pods, so please do keep on using them. We will soon be adding another bin for empty Crisp Packets, as Terracycle is happy to recycle these as well. Once we have a sizeable collection in the bin, they can all be taken to Heyford Park as part of their scheme, so start saving!

Small personal acts are really important in dealing with the way we relate to the climate problem that we are all part of, so we should remember, even if we feel its tiny and the problem is huge, small steps do lead to big change.

Annie Savage – secretary@north-aston.co.uk



Aunt Sally!

Aunt Sally was rained off at the end of July, so the dates for August are set as Wednesday 4th and 18th, starting at 7pm.

Come along and take part! Bring a chair, something refreshing, and a good eye! All welcome!

North Aston News

The North Aston News is designed and produced by CMC Graphics, printed by Nicholsons of North Aston, and distributed monthly, free of charge, to all the residents of the Parish of North Aston. A full-colour edition in electronic format is also available and is sent out to an extensive emailing list every month. To be included in that list, please contact the News, stating your wish to be added to the mailing list. We welcome contributions, which need to be in an electronic format (except Classifieds and Announcements, which may be hand written). To submit an item, including high resolution photographs suitable for use on the front cover, please email: info@north-aston.co.uk

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